

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 12 and 34-50 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 12 and 40-50 being independent. Claims 1, 9 and 12 have been amended and Claims 34-50 are newly-presented herein.

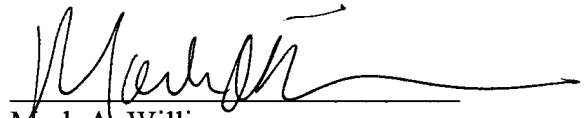
Further to the Amendment filed November 30, 2005, Claims 1, 9 and 12 have been further amended herein. However, these changes are believed to merely improve the form of the claims, and are not believed to affect their allowability.

Newly-presented Claims 34-50 are also believed to be in condition for allowance. For example, newly-presented independent Claim 40 recites that within a range from a low gradation level to a high gradation level of colors expressed by input image data, as the gradation level rises, the applying amount of the low concentration print material is gradually increased up to a first peak amount and after reaching the first peak amount, gradually decreased, and as the gradation level rises from a gradation level corresponding to the first peak amount or from a predetermined gradation level smaller than the gradation level corresponding to the first peak amount, the applying amount of the high concentration print material is gradually increased up to a second peak amount smaller than the first peak amount. It is believed that at least this feature, as well as related features recited in the other newly-presented independent claims, renders the claim patentable over the citations of record.

Favorable consideration, entry of the supplemental amendments, and an early Notice of Allowability are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', is written over a horizontal line.

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